[*English*]

Use of Compressed Natural Gas in Motor Cars

2838. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to encourage the use of compressed natural gas in cars and taxies fitted with conversion kits;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction so far and the further plans in this regard;

(c) the likely cost of conversion per vehicle; and

(d) the extent of likely savings in the fuel cost in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). Gas Authority of India Limited and IBP Co. Ltd. have submitted a proposal for the introduction of compressed natural gas as automotive fuel at selected locations. This proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in Himachal Pradesh

2839. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploration for oil and natural gas is going on at Changar-Talai in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the future prospects therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Drilling of Changartalai-1, started on 20.3.91, is in the initial stages.

[*Translation*]

Water Level in Dhanbad Coal Mines

2840. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Dhanbad, the water level is continuously going down due to continuous mining resulting in shortage of drinking water there;

(b) whether an assurance was given some time back to implement 'Operation Varun' to over come the problem of water there; and

(c) if so, the details of the 'Operation Varun' and the total expenditure incurred on it and the extent to which it has succeeded?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Re-Employment To Retired Employees of ITDC

2841. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons who have been re-employed after their superannuation in the India Tourism Development Cor-